

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>Item</b>
	10 July 2019	
<b>Report of</b>	Director of regeneration and development	<b>7</b>
<b>Subject</b>	Home Energy Conservation Act Report 2019 - 2021	

### **Purpose**

To report on the energy efficiency work of Norwich City Council over the past two years and the planned work for the next two years.

### **Recommendation**

To note the progress made against addressing energy efficiency within the city.

### **Corporate and service priorities**

The report helps to meet the council's corporate priority great neighbourhoods, housing and environment.

### **Financial implications**

None in addition to those already budgeted for.

**Ward/s:** All Wards

**Cabinet member:** Councillor Davis - Social inclusion

### **Contact officers**

**Richard Willson, environmental strategy manager** 01603 2312

**Rachel Sowerby, affordable warmth officer** 01603 2112

### **Background documents**

None

## Report

1. The Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995 requires all 326 local authorities in England to submit reports to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy demonstrating what energy conservation measures they have adopted to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation within the local authority area.
2. The HECA report sets out the energy conservation measures that the authority considers practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in its area in line with government requirements.
3. The report is available to view online [here](#), on the Norwich City Council website, committee pages. At 70 pages it is not reproduced with this report to save paper.
4. The report outlines the range of work the City Council has undertaken to improve energy efficiency within our local communities since our last report in 2017, and sets out our plans for the next two years. This report has been considered and endorsed by Sustainable Development Panel on 20 March 2019.
5. Norwich has the second lowest carbon emissions across Norfolk local authorities.
6. Improving energy efficiency in accommodation is likely to lead to a reduction in domestic energy use. Reducing domestic energy use has important environmental, social and economic benefits and therefore contributes to Norwich city council's new corporate priorities:
  - People living well
  - Inclusive economy
  - Great neighbourhoods, housing and environment
7. Over recent years, steep increases in fuel prices have, in part, resulted in a rise in fuel poverty nationally and so emphasises the importance of reducing the impact of this issue locally. The council has been working hard to try to combat the issue of fuel poverty across the city and to mitigate the effects of fuel poverty wherever possible.
8. As outlined in the main report, there has been an increase in fuel poverty in Norwich since the HECA was last published. There are currently 7,804 households in fuel poverty across the city. However, to set this in some context, at both a national and regional level fuel poverty levels have increased in recent years. The majority of councils across Norfolk have also seen an increase in fuel poverty levels.
9. The reduction of fuel poverty is also vital to improve the health of the local community, enhance prosperity and improve the housing stock. Our programme

of activities will, we hope, be assisted by a combination of government funding, other ad hoc funding schemes and our own funding.

10. Since the introduction of the Home Energy Conservation Act we have run a wide range of programmes and projects to promote energy efficiency to our residents. This report outlines how we will continue to develop this work over the next two years.
11. Over the past two years, since our previous HECA report, Norwich City Council has achieved the following:
  - A further 2000 residents have switched with our Big Switch and Save scheme, with average savings of over £200. Overall over 5000 residents have switched with this scheme.
  - Installation of over 100 energy efficiency improvements to private sector homes through our Cosy City scheme.
  - Continued work to make our council housing stock energy efficient. The current average SAP rating of the council's housing stock is 70.3, compared to the national average of 62.
  - A second successful collective solar pv purchasing scheme translating to 11kw of power installed, saving 32 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.
  - Two One Planet Norwich festivals engaging over 15,000 visitors
  - An additional 2.9% reduction in our carbon emissions (2017/18) taking the total reduction to 57% against our 40% target.
12. Throughout the period of the report (2019-2021) we will continue to work to make council homes energy efficient and working with private sector housing, continue to remove excess cold hazards in private rented homes. Our Cosy City scheme will take advantage of all available funding to maximise possible interventions in the private sector.
13. Our council housing has an average SAP rating of 70.3, which is much higher than the national average. The private sector housing stock in Norwich is 52.0, which is much lower than our own council housing standards. Improvement in this sector will be key to realising improved affordable warmth figures in the future; however this sector has seen significant cuts in government funding. Therefore there appears to be a disconnect between the government's ambition to improve the energy efficiency of all fuel-poor homes to a decent band C level and the amount of money being spent on the issue.
14. We have made significant progress so far in reducing Norwich's carbon emissions and work to tackle fuel poverty and we are committed to continuing this in the future. However, we recognise that we need to be realistic and understand that we are operating in times of financial insecurity where future funding streams are not guaranteed. Whilst we continuously seek new opportunities we cannot be complacent that current funding streams will continue to be available to us. We must remain realistic in our aspirations with what we can deliver with decreased resources.

## Integrated impact assessment



**NORWICH**  
City Council

### Report author to complete

<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Committee date:</b>	10 July 2019
<b>Director / Head of service</b>	Dave Moorcroft
<b>Report subject:</b>	Norwich City Council Home Energy Conservation Report 2019 - 2021
<b>Date assessed:</b>	26.06.19

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Several schemes, including the Big Switch and Save, generate income
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial inclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural and built environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Norwich City Council has achieved a 57% reduction in carbon emissions
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Improving energy efficiency is likely to reduce domestic energy use.
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Recommendations from impact assessment**

**Positive**

**Negative**

**Neutral**

**Issues**